

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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WEST CORNERS FIRE DISTRICT AWARDED \$22,860 FEMA GRANT

BINGHAMTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded a \$22,860 grant to the West Corners Fire District under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The grant was one of 354 awarded nationwide in the fourth round of grants for fiscal year 2002.

"We have all come to appreciate firefighters much more because of the extraordinary circumstances of last September," said Hinchey. "But it's also important to understand the challenges they face on a daily basis. This grant will help the West Corners Fire District to better meet those challenges."

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program was created by the 106th Congress and authorized for \$400 million over two years. A member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has strongly supported providing full funding for the program. Earlier this year, Hinchey sponsored a number of workshops across the 26th Congressional District to help fire departments with the grant application process.

Fire companies had the opportunity to apply for assistance in any of four categories: fire operations and fire safety, fire prevention, emergency medical services, and firefighting vehicles. West Corners applied under the fire operations and firefighter safety category. The full cost of the department's proposal is \$25,400. The FEMA grant represents 90 percent of that amount.